

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03707 031600Z

ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NEA-07 SSO-00 INRE-00

/042 W

-----045951 031603Z /53

O R 031540Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2197

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T AMMAN 3707

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR JO SY US

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN-SYRIAN AIR RIGHTS

REF: DAMASCUS 4108

1. ON JULY 3, KING HUSSEIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WE WERE MAKING EXCEPTIONAL EFFORTS TO SPEED THE PROCESSING OF THE JORDANIAN-SYRIAN REQUEST TO FLY TO NEW YORK. KING ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE PRESIDENT, WHERE HE KNEW FINAL DECISION HAD TO BE APPROVED, HIS STRONG HOPE THAT FAVORABLE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN IN TIME TO ALLOW ALIA TO FLY ON JULY 11.

2. I INDICATED I WOULD PASS ON HIS STRONG FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE.

3. HE SAID HE WAS ALSO AWARE THAT SYRIANS SEEMED TO HAVE GOTTEN BOGGED DOWN IN ADMINISTRATIVE TANGLES AND RED TAPE IN THEIR OWN EFFORTS TO FLY
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TO NEW YROK. HE SAID HE WOULD OFFER FULL SUPPORT OF JORDANIAN ORGANIZATION TO SYRIANS IN ORDER TO GET THEM FLYING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE NOTED THAT SYRIANS SEEMED TO BE ABLE TO USE THEIR 747S ONLY A FEW HOURS A DAY WHILE HIS OWN WERE GETTING UP TO 14 HOURS DAILY BETWEEN FLYING THEIR REGULAR ROUTES AND SPECIAL CHARTER SERVICES WHICH HE OFFERED TO

THE GULF STATES.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE NEW YORK RUN WAS KEY TO THE
FUTURE PROGRESS OF ALIA AND HE WANTED TO SEE SERVICE
STARTED IN TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HEAVY
TOURIST TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE CURRENT
SUMMER SEASON.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF
DEPARTMENT WOULD PASS ON WHEN AND AS APPROPRIATE
TO WHITE HOUSE KING'S STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST
IN EARLY FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF ISSUE OF ALIA-
SYRIAN AIRLINES SERVICE TO U.S. I WOULD BE
GRATEFUL ALSO FOR STATUS REPORT FOR KING ON
WHERE DECISION NOW STANDS AND WHEN FINAL
DECISION MIGHT BE EXPECTED. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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